REMARKS

Claims 21-40 are pending in the application.

Claims 1, 3, 5-9, 13, 14, 16, 18, and 19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Peifer et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,987,519). Claims 4, 10-12, 15, 17, and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Peifer. Claim 2 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Peifer in view of McMillan (U.S. Patent No. 5,826,267).

Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

New independent claim 21 is directed to a computer-implemented method for processing user identification information and user medical information at a central medical information computer system. The central medical information computer system is interconnected to a plurality of remote collection kiosks located at publicly accessible locations. Each remote collection kiosk includes a user input device for permitting newly registering users and existing registered users to enter new and existing user identifications, respectively, a measurement device for permitting the newly registering users and the existing registered users to measure their own bodily readings, and computer memory containing computer-readable media storing the existing user identifications, the new user identifications of newly registered users who registered at the remote collection kiosk, and the bodily readings measured at the remote collection kiosk. The central medical information computer system receives and stores the new user identifications and the bodily readings at the central medical information computer system. The central medical information computer system also loads the new user identifications received from the remote collection kiosk in an

update file. The update file is distributed to the remote collection kiosks so as to permit each remote collection kiosk to update its computer memory to store the new user identifications entered at other remote collection kiosks.

Advantageously, log-in information of newly registering users will be distributed to multiple collection kiosks. An user who registered at a first remote collection kiosk does not need to return to the same collection kiosk he or she registered at to log-in. Rather, the user who registered at the first remote collection kiosk may later log-in at a different second remote collection kiosk without re-registering.

Peifer does not disclose or suggest the combination of features set forth in claim 21. For example, Peifer neither discloses nor suggests collecting new user identifications and other information from remote collection kiosks, and distributing the new user identifications to other remote collection kiosks. Peifer discloses providing a current list of registered users at the central monitoring station or, in the alternative embodiment disclosed at column 9, lines 31-35, "at a server located outside of the central monitoring stations." No disclosure is made of updating the memories of the remote collection kiosks in the manner set forth in claim 21. Rather, Peifer focuses on the encapsulation of digital data into packets and the transmission of the "packet-based" information back and forth between the collecting station and the central monitoring station for processing. Peifer contains no discussion or suggestion of distributing user identification information from its central monitoring station to multiple collecting stations for remote storage.

Applicant respectfully submits that McMillan, which has been cited for its disclosure of File Transfer Protocol (FTP), does not overcome the deficiencies of Peifer.

Claims 22-29 depend from claim 21, incorporate all of the distinguishing features of claim 21, and are patentable over the applied art for the reasons advanced above with respect to claim 21 and additionally because the added limitations of those claims, when taken in combination with the features of claim 21, are neither disclosed in nor reasonably suggested by the applied art. For example, claim 22 recites that the claimed method may be practiced to provide the computer memories of each of the remote collection kiosks with identical user identifications. Claim 23 recites that the new user identifications are collected from all remote collection kiosks that are interconnected to the central medical information computer system. Claim 24 recites operating the central medical information computer system to provide a medical information web site for permitting the newly registering users and existing registered users to view the bodily readings stored at the central medical information computer system. Claim 25 recites storing copies of the update file at designated locations (e.g., directories) each corresponding to a remote collection kiosk. Claim 26 recites deleting those copies of the update file after distribution. Claim 27 recites receiving a request for the update file from the remote collection kiosk. Claims 28 and 29 respectively recite that the remote collection kiosks include blood pressure monitors and/or scales as measurement devices, and are located at drug stores and/or pharmacies.

For the above reasons, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections of claims 21-29.

New independent claim 30 recites a computer-implemented method for processing user identification information and user medical information at a remote collection kiosk. The remote collection kiosk is located at a publicly accessible location, is interconnected to a central medical information computer system, and includes a user input device for permitting

newly registering users and existing registered users to enter new and existing user identifications, respectively, a measurement device for permitting the newly registering users and the existing registered users to measure their own bodily readings, and a computer memory comprising computer-readable media storing the existing user identifications, the new user identifications of newly registering users of the remote collection kiosk, and the bodily readings measured at the collection kiosk. The remote collection kiosk receives an update file from the central medical information computer system. The update file contains new user identifications entered at other remote collection kiosks that are interconnected to the central medical information computer system. The computer memory of the remote collection kiosk is updated to store the new user identifications of the update file.

Peifer does not teach the combination of features set forth in new claim 30. Among other things, Peifer is silent with respect to the claimed feature of a remote collection kiosk receiving and storing contents of an update file containing new user identifications of newly registering users who registered at different remote collection kiosks.

Applicant respectfully submits that McMillan, which has been cited for its disclosure of File Transfer Protocol (FTP), does not overcome the deficiencies of Peifer.

Claims 31-35 depend from claim 30, incorporate all of the distinguishing features of claim 30, and are patentable over the applied art for the reasons advanced above with respect to claim 30 and additionally because the added limitations of claims 31-35, when taken in combination with the features of claim 30, are neither disclosed in nor reasonably suggested by the applied art. For example, claim 31 recites providing each of the remote collection kiosks with identical user identifications. claim 32 recites that the remote collection kiosk sends a request for the update file to the central medical information computer system prior to

receiving the update file. Claim 33 recites that the remote collection kiosk receives new user identifications of newly registering users that register via a medical information web site operated by the central medical information computer system. Claims 34 and 35 respectively recite that the remote collection kiosks include blood pressure monitors and/or scales as measurement devices, and are located at drug stores and/or pharmacies.

For the above reasons, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections with respect to claims 30-35.

New independent claim 36 recites a computer-implemented information collection system including a plurality of remote collection kiosks located at publicly accessible locations and a central medical information computer system interconnected to the remote collection kiosks. The remote collection kiosks include user input devices for allowing newly registering users and existing registered users to enter new and existing user identifications, respectively, measurement devices for allowing the newly registering users and the existing registered users to measure their own bodily readings as medical information, and computer memory comprising computer-reading media storing the new and existing user identifications and the bodily readings.

The central medical information computer system includes a medical information server and a kiosk server. The medical information server includes an information database for storing the user identifications and the medical information. The medical information server also provides Internet-accessible web pages for permitting the newly registering users and existing registered users to view the medical information stored in the information database. The kiosk server includes an update medical information database and a client interface. The update medical information database contains the medical information

collected via the remote collection kiosks and awaiting to be stored in the information database of the medical information server. The client interface distributes an update file of user identifications from the central medical information computer system to the remote collection kiosks for updating respective computer memory of the collection kiosks to provide each of the collection kiosks with an updated list of the user identifications of the existing and newly registered users.

Peifer does not disclose or teach a client interface for distributing update files as set forth in claim 36. Peifer teaches providing a current list of registered users at the central monitoring station or, in the alternative embodiment disclosed at column 9, lines 31-35, "at a server located outside of the central monitoring stations." Peifer does not disclose or suggest a system for distributing an update file of user registrations to the remote collection kiosks in the manner defined in claim 36.

Applicant respectfully submits that McMillan, which has been cited for its disclosure of File Transfer Protocol (FTP), does not overcome the deficiencies of Peifer.

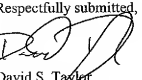
Claims 37-40 depend from claim 36, incorporate all of the distinguishing features of claim 36, and are patentable over the applied art for the reasons advanced above with respect to claim 36 and additionally because the added limitations of claims 37-40, when taken in combination with the features of claim 36, are neither disclosed in nor reasonably suggested by the applied art. For example, claim 37 recites that the updated computer memories of the remote collection kiosks contain the user identifications entered at all of the remote collection kiosks. Claim 38 recites that the central medical information computer system is operable to store copies of the update file at designated locations (e.g., directories) each corresponding to a remote collection kiosk. Claims 39 and 40 respectively recite that the remote collection

kiosks include blood pressure monitors and/or scales as measurement devices, and are located at drug stores and/or pharmacies.

For the above additional reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are patentable over Peifer, when taken alone or in combination with McMillan, and respectfully requests withdrawal of the Section 103(a) rejection of the claims.

In view of the foregoing remarks, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. The Examiner is asked to consider this response and pass the application to allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions, he is requested to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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